GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:255
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
CONVERSION OF RECS INTO NIT
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalized a project to set up National Institute of Technology in the country;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof and the manner in which the new concept of National Institutes of Technology is likely to replace the existing Regional Engineering Colleges;

(c) the difference in the structure etc. of the proposed National Institutes of Technologies;

(d) the financial implications of the aforesaid concept;

(e) whether the Government will provide funds to the respective States for the upgradation of these institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said upgradation is likely to be done?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (c) : Yes, sir. In order to review the functioning of Regional Engineering College (REC) system and strengthen them the Government of India had constituted a High Powered Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar in June, 1996. After considering the recommendations of the Committee, it was decided that RECs may be granted Deemed to be University status and converted into National Institute of Technology (NIT). The main objective of conversion of RECs into NITs is to strengthen them so that they can provide high quality technical education in various fields to the students. Accordingly the Department of Secondary and Higher Education circulated new draft Memorandum of Association (MOA)/Rules to all the 17 RECs and requested them to adopt the same with the approval of their Board of Governors. Out of 17 RECs, by now 10 RECs have already adopted the new MOA/Rules; Government of India has declared them (10 RECs) 'Deemed to be University' with full academic autonomy to facilitate academic innovation and promote greater interaction with industry. They have been renamed as NITs.

So far the remaining 7 RECs are concerned, the matter is under active consideration and they too will be declared 'Deemed to be University' and renamed as NITs, as and when they adopt the new MOA/Rules and complete other formalities.

On conversion of RECs into NITs power to appoint the Chairman of the BOGs of the Institute will be transferred to Central Government. Post of the Principal of the NITs will be re-designated as Director and power to appoint the Director of the Institute will also be transferred to Central Government.

(d) to (f): Certain facilities will have to be created to convert RECs into NITs. However, additional funds required for creating these facilities shall be largely provided out of the budget of Ministry of Human Resource Development.